

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of regulating the nonspecific adsorption of a molecule to a solid phase surface, comprising regulating the hydrophobic property of the solid phase surface in a solid phase carrier.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method of suppressing the nonspecific interaction between a molecule A and/or a solid phase carrier and a molecule other than a molecule B that specifically interacts with said molecule A, comprising conducting a treatment to reduce the hydrophobic property of the solid phase surface in the solid phase carrier, in a process to immobilize the molecule A onto the solid phase carrier and analyze the specific interaction between the molecule A and the molecule B on the solid phase, or in a process to immobilize the molecule A onto the solid phase carrier and select the molecule B using the specific interaction between the molecule A and the molecule B on the solid phase.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, ~~claim 2 or 3~~, wherein the combination of the molecule A and the molecule B is any of a small compound and a small compound, a small compound and a large compound, and a large compound and a large compound.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, ~~claim 2 or 3~~, wherein the combination of the molecule A and the molecule B is a small compound and a large compound or a large compound and a large compound.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, ~~claim 2 or 3~~, wherein the treatment to reduce the hydrophobic property of the solid phase surface in the solid phase carrier is to introduce, at the time of immobilization of the molecule A onto the solid phase carrier, a hydrophilic spacer therebetween.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic spacer has at least any of the following characteristics while in a state bound to the solid phase carrier and the molecule A:

- (i) the number of hydrogen bond acceptor is 6 or more,
- (ii) the number of hydrogen bond donor is 5 or more,
- (iii) the total number of hydrogen bond acceptor and hydrogen bond donor is 9 or more.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein said hydrophilic spacer further has one or more carbonyl groups in the molecule thereof.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, ~~claim 7 or 8~~, further characterized in that said hydrophilic spacer does not have a functional group that becomes positively or negatively charged in an aqueous solution.

Claims 10-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Original): A screening method for a molecule B that exhibits a specific interaction with a molecule A, comprising at least the following steps:

- (i) immobilizing the molecule A onto a solid phase carrier via a hydrophilic spacer,
- (ii) contacting a sample that contains or does not contain the molecule B with the solid phase carrier with the molecule A immobilized thereon obtained in (i) above,
- (iii) identifying and analyzing a molecule that has exhibited or has not exhibited a specific interaction with the molecule A, and
- (iv) judging a molecule that exhibits a specific interaction with the molecule A as the molecule B on the basis of the analytical results obtained in (iii) above.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the combination of the molecule A and the molecule B is any of a small compound and a small compound, a small compound and a large compound, and a large compound and a large compound.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the combination of the molecule A and the molecule B is a small compound and a large compound or a large compound and a large compound.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic spacer has at least any of the following characteristics while in a state bound to the solid phase carrier and the molecule A:

- (i) the number of hydrogen bond acceptor is 6 or more,
- (ii) the number of hydrogen bond donor is 5 or more,
- (iii) the total number of hydrogen bond acceptor and hydrogen bond donor is 9 or more.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein said hydrophilic spacer further has one or more carbonyl groups in the molecule thereof.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, ~~claim 21 or 22~~, further characterized in that said hydrophilic spacer does not have a functional group that becomes positively or negatively charged in an aqueous solution.

Claim 24 (Original): A hydrophilic spacer for reducing the hydrophobic property of the solid phase surface in a solid phase carrier, which has at least any of the following characteristics while in a state bound to the solid phase carrier and the molecule A:

- (i) the number of hydrogen bond acceptor is 6 or more,
- (ii) the number of hydrogen bond donor is 5 or more,
- (iii) the total number of hydrogen bond acceptor and hydrogen bond donor is 9 or more.

Claim 25 (Original): The hydrophilic spacer of claim 24, wherein said hydrophilic spacer further has one or more carbonyl groups in the molecule thereof.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The hydrophilic spacer of claim 24, ~~claim 24 or 25~~, further characterized in that said hydrophilic spacer does not have a functional group that becomes positively or negatively charged in an aqueous solution.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises a solid phase carrier and the hydrophilic spacer of claim 24, ~~any one of claims 24-26~~.



(In Formula (Ia),

A is an appropriate joining group,

$X_1$ - $X_3$  are the same or different and each is a single bond or a methylene group that may be substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,

$R_1$ - $R_7$  are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,  $-CH_2OH$  or a hydroxyl group,

m is an integer of 0-2, m' is an integer of 0-10, m'' is an integer of 0-2,

when a plurality of  $R_3$ - $R_7$  units exist, they may be the same or different, when a plurality of  $X_3$  units exist, they may be the same or different;

in Formula (Ib),

n and n' are the same or different and each is an integer of 1-1000;

in Formula (Ic),

p, p' and p'' are the same or different and each is an integer of 1-1000;

in Formula (Id),

$X_4$  is a single bond or a methylene group that may be substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,

$R_8$ - $R_{10}$  are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,  $-CH_2OH$  or a hydroxyl group,

q is an integer of 1-7,

when a plurality of  $R_8$  units exist, they may be the same or different, when a plurality of  $X_4$  units exist, they may be the same or different;

in Formula (Ie),

$R_{11}$ - $R_{16}$  are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,  $-CH_2OH$  or a hydroxyl group,

$r$  is an integer of 1-10,  $r'$  is an integer of 1-50,

when a plurality of  $R_{11}$ - $R_{16}$  units exist, they may be the same or different).

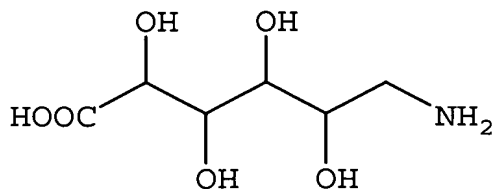
Claim 31 (Original): The hydrophilic spacer of claim 30, which has two or more partial structures represented by any one formula selected from the group consisting of Formulas (Ia)-(Ie).

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises a solid phase carrier and the hydrophilic spacer of claim 30, ~~claim 30 or 31~~.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises the hydrophilic spacer of claim 30 ~~or 31~~ and a molecule A.

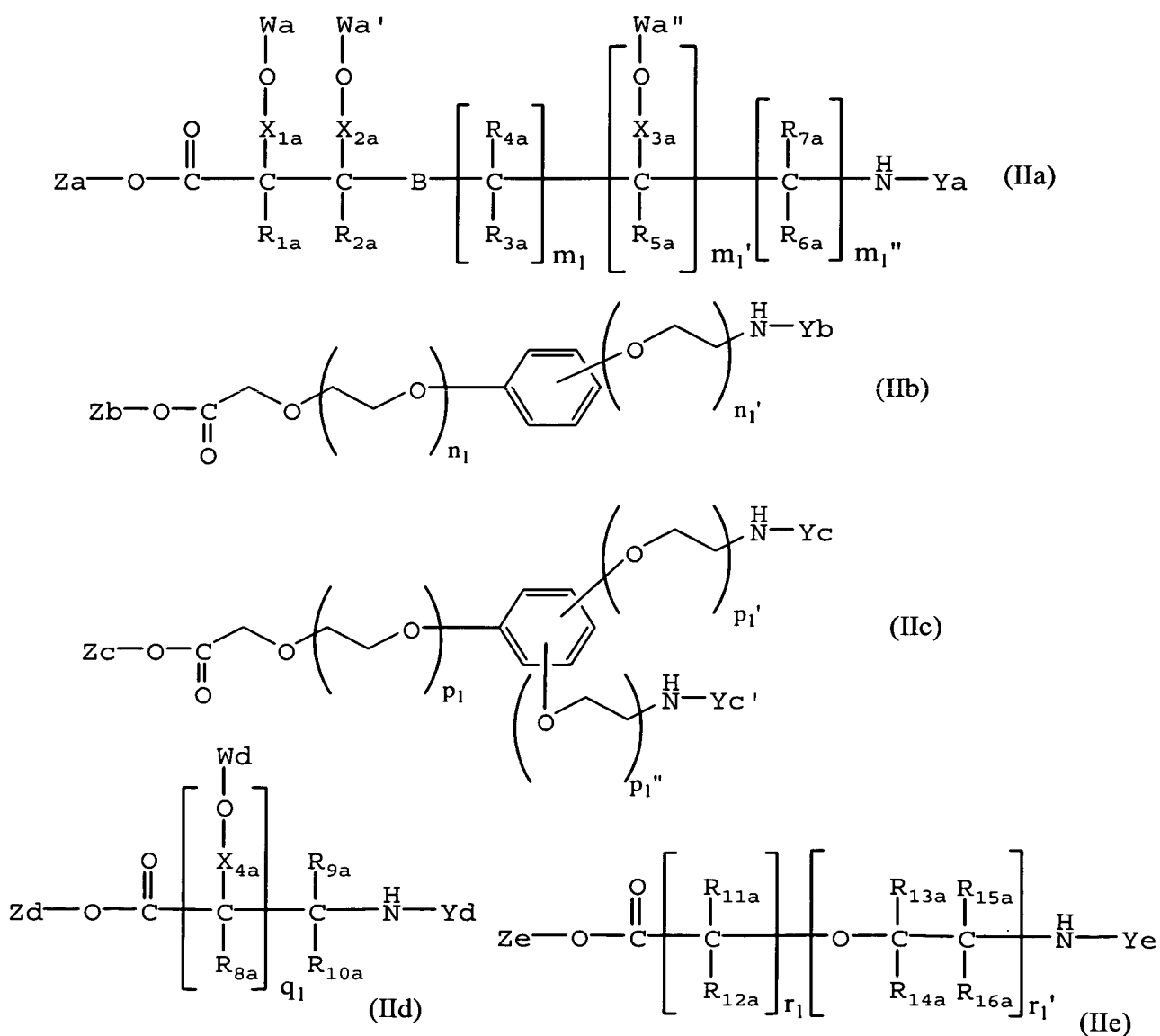
Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises a solid phase carrier, the hydrophilic spacer of claim 30, ~~claim 30 or 31~~, and a molecule A.

Claim 35 (Original): A compound that has at least one partial structure represented by any one formula selected from the group consisting of Formulas (Ia)-(Ie), but excluding the following compound:



Claim 36 (Original): The compound of claim 35, which has two or more partial structures represented by any one formula selected from the group consisting of Formulas (Ia)-(Ie).

Claim 37 (Original): A compound represented by at least one formula selected from the group consisting of Formulas (IIa)-(IIe) below:



(In Formula (IIa),



Y<sub>a</sub> is a hydrogen atom or an amino-group-protecting group,

Z<sub>a</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-group-protecting group,

W<sub>a</sub>, W<sub>a</sub>' and W<sub>a</sub>'' are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-group-protecting group (these protective groups may bind together with mutually adjoining protective groups to form a dialkylmethylene group),

B is an appropriate joining group,

X<sub>1a</sub>-X<sub>3a</sub> are the same or different and each is a single bond or a methylene group that may be substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,

R<sub>1a</sub>-R<sub>7a</sub> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH (in the formula, the hydroxyl group may be protected) or a hydroxyl group that may be protected,

m<sub>1</sub> is an integer of 0-2, m<sub>1</sub>' is an integer of 0-10, m<sub>1</sub>'' is an integer of 0-2,

when a plurality of R<sub>3a</sub>-R<sub>7a</sub> units exist, they may be the same or different, when a plurality of X<sub>3a</sub> units exist, they may be the same or different;

in Formula (IIb),

Y<sub>b</sub> is a hydrogen atom or an amino-group-protecting group,

Z<sub>b</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-group-protecting group,

n<sub>1</sub> and n<sub>1</sub>' are the same or different and each is an integer of 1-1000;

in Formula (IIc),

Y<sub>c</sub> and Y<sub>c</sub>' are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or an amino-group-protecting group,

Z<sub>c</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-group-protecting group,

p<sub>1</sub>, p<sub>1</sub>' and p<sub>1</sub>'' are the same or different and each is an integer of 1-1000;

in Formula (IId),

Y<sub>d</sub> is a hydrogen atom or an amino-group-protecting group,

Zd is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-group-protecting group,

Wd is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group-protecting group,

X<sub>4a</sub> is a single bond or a methylene group that may be substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms,

R<sub>8a</sub>-R<sub>10a</sub> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH (in the formula, the hydroxyl group may be protected) or a hydroxyl group that may be protected,

q<sub>1</sub> is an integer of 1-7,

when a plurality of R<sub>8a</sub> units exist, they may be the same or different, when a plurality of X<sub>4a</sub> units exist, they may be the same or different;

in Formula (IIe),

Ye is a hydrogen atom or an amino-group-protecting group,

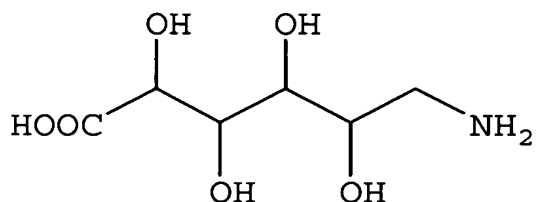
Ze is a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl-group-protecting group,

R<sub>11a</sub>-R<sub>16a</sub> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-3 carbon atoms, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH (in the formula, the hydroxyl group may be protected), or a hydroxyl group that may be protected,

r<sub>1</sub> is an integer of 1-10, r<sub>1</sub>' is an integer of 1-50,

when a plurality of R<sub>11a</sub>-R<sub>16a</sub> units exist, they may be the same or different),

but excluding the following compound:



Claim 38 (Original): A polymer compound prepared by polymerizing a compound represented by at least one formula selected from the group consisting of Formulas (IIa)-(IIe).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises a solid phase carrier and the compound of claim 35, ~~any one of claims 35-38~~.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises the compound of claim 35 ~~any one of claims 35-38~~ and a molecule A.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A complex that comprises a solid phase carrier, the compound of claim 35, ~~any one of claims 35-38~~, and a molecule A.